SHELTER ISLAND NOTES

Manhansett Indians

Monqotucksee is also said to have built a canal at Canoe Place as a military precaution. I'm not sure whether this was built to protect his people from other Long Island Indians, or the Connecticut and Rhode Island tribes. After his death, his elder son ***Poggatacut*** [Youghoo, Yoco or Yovowan], who had been the Sachem of the Manhasset Indians on Shelter Island became the Grand Sachem in 1636 around the beginning of the Pequot War. Another son ***Wyandance,*** Sachem of Montauk was sent with the power to negotiate to Saybrook, Connecticut to back the English in their war. The Pequot War had plagued the life of the Long Island Indians during Monqotucksee's rein.

1645 May 24 WITTANEYMEN, a Sachem of the Shinnecock Indians went to New Netherland (Manhattan) with forty-seven armed men. The Dutch West India Company supplied the Sachem with a sloop and rations to fight their enemy (unnamed). On May 29th, Wittaneymen declared he had been empowered by the Indians of Shelter Island, Curchaug, and Montauk to protect several towns in the center of the Island.[1]

Shelter Island was originally inhabited by the Manhansett Indians until Nathaniel Sylvester; a wealthy sugar merchant from Barbados purchased the island. With Sylvester came Barbadian Rum, which was used to manipulate the local Indians, as well as slaves from Barbados.[2]

1653 -- Death of Manhansett's Grand Sachem - Yoco. The burial of Shelter Island's great Chief. (Whooping Boys Hollow.)

COCKENOE (Checkanoe), brother-in-law to Yoco, a noted Manhansett (Manhansick) Indian.[3]

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[1] Brewster-walker, Sandi, *LI Native & Black History UPDATE*, January 2007, Vol. 1

[2] Brewster-walker, Sandi, *LI Native & Black History UPDATE*, January 2007, Vol. 2, page 1; Witek, John Charles, *The Lives and Identities of the Indians of Shelter Island,1652-1835*, Long Island Historical Journal, Spring 1992, Vol. 4, No. 3, page 173-184.

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March 19, 1680 Nathaniel Sylvester's will list his 24 slaves, and the inventory September 8, 1680[4]

List seven men, five women as "wife," and 11 children (7 girls)

- TAMERO, his wife OYOU and their four children (3 probably boys).
- BLACK JOHN and his daughter PRESCILLA
- NEGRO JO and his wife MARIE
- NEGRO JENKIN
- JAQUERO, his wife HANNAH and their daughters: HOPE and ISABELL
- TONY, his wife NANNIE and their four daughters: HESTER, ABBY, GRACE, and SEMNIE
- JAPHET and his wife SEMNIE

1684

Sylvester Account Book and the Havens Store Ledger

John C. Witek's article gives insight into the daily lives and movement of the Indians through the *Sylvester Account Book* and the *Havens Store Ledger*. Sylvester's oldest son Giles recorded in 1680 more than 40-names of Indians, and many of their names are listed in the article. At least 11 of the men are mentioned in the Colonial Records of South Hampton, East Hampton, and Southold. Witek says that **Abram, Anthony, Dick, Harry, Isaac, Jeffery, Judas, Stephon** and possibly **Tom** are among the fifty-two males 15-years old or more enumerated as Shinnecocks in Southampton's 1698 census. And **Mago(e)**'s name appears on a Montauk deed of 1687. He also mentioned **Ambusco**, who signed several deeds concerning Southold.

In 1729, Jonathan Hudson of Shelter Island, willed, "I leave to my daughter, Hannah Spencer, £32 Boston money, and 2 cows and a Negro girl. To my daughter, Deborah Parker, £20 and 2 cows and a Negro girl."[5]

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[3] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, Chapter 1, p.
[4] Shillingburg, Patricia, *The Provisioning Plantation: 1652-1693: Slavery as the Economic Engine*
[5] Shillingburg, Patricia & Edward, *The Disposition of Slaves on the East end of Long Island from 1680 to 1796*, 2003.

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1727 John Knowling of Shelter Island willed to "leave to my wife Hannah, a negro boy and a negro girl, and the bed that I lye on, and the trundle bed with its furniture, and 2 iron pots, and a brass kettle, and a warming pan, and pewter, and 6 spoons, and my Large Bible." Hannah Knowling, at the same time, left "Tamor" to her daughter Mary Merrow and "a negro boy" to her grandson John Merrow. "My daughter Mary Merrow is to have use of him until her son is of age."

In 1729, Jonathan Hudson of Shelter Island, willed, "I leave to my daughter, Hannah Spencer, £32 Boston money, and 2 cows and a negro girl. To my daughter, Deborah Parker, £20 and 2 cows and a negro girl."

Shelter island Quaker Cemetery

1740 – Route 114 and West Neck Road, former slaves of the Nicoll family are thought to be buried here.[6]

1764, Thomas Dering owned a slave named "**Cato,**" who was caught in the wine cellar drunk.[7] Among the other slaves were "**Comus.**"

In 1750, John Havens of Shelter Island left his two oldest slaves to his wife and then to his daughters Sarah and Elinor. To the three others daughters Desire, Phebe, and Mary "each a negro slave."[8]

In 1765, Thomas Dering took up residence at his family estate on Shelter Island. He made an inventory of his property which included six slaves: including **Cato, London, Comus, Matilda, Judith, and a male child named London.**[9]

James Havens' ledger 1765 - 1810

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[6] Brewster-walker, Sandi, *LI Native & Black History UPDATE*, January 2007, Vol. 2, page 4.
[7] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, p. 59-60.
[8] Shillingburg, Patricia & Edward, *The Disposition of Slaves on the East end of Long Island from 1680 to 1796,* 2003.
[9] Shillingburg, Patricia & Edward, *The Disposition of Slaves on the East end of Long Island from 1680 to 1796,* 2003[Wortis, *A Woman Names Matilda*, page 50.

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James Havens' ledger showed that he extended credit without interest to the Indians between 1765 and his death in1810. And he lists them by name, as well as family group. However the Shelter Island census for 1771, 1776, and 1790 didn't list any Indians. I think this was mainly because the Indians were not taxed.

1771 Shelter Island census and the number of Black Males & Females in white Households

Last Name	First Name	Black Males under 16	Black Males from 16 to 60	Black Males 60 & up	Black Females under 16	Black Female above 16	
Brown	Daniel	2				1	
Dering	Thomas	1	2			2	
Havens	Jonathan	1	2	1	1	1	
Havens	Nicoll	1	1			1	
Havens	Obadiah					1	
Havens, Jr	Jonathan				1		
Nicoll	Havens		1	1	2	2	
Totals =		5	6	2	4	8	25

In 1771, Shelter Island had a population of 167, 27 of whom were "blacks," or 16%. Jonathan Havens had 6, Thomas Dering, 5, Daniel Brown, 3, William Nicoll, 8, Nicoll Havens, 3, Obadiah Havens, 1, and Jonathan Havens, Jr., 1. In Southampton in 1774 John Mitchell ordered that "Prime" be sold. "I authorize my executors to sell my negro man Prime wither to the west of the Island or Gardiners Island." His intention was to remove Prime from the community.

Israel Halsey left to his son Josiah "all the rest of my lands and buildings and rights of land; Also my largest bible and my best cane, and a negro named "Simon." He left £10 and "Dinah" to his daughter Mary Rogers, "two negros" to his son Wilman, and "two negroes" to his son John.

1775, Shelter Island had a population of 171, of which 33 were "negroes," 19%.

1776 Shelter Island census and the number of Black Males & Females in white Households

Last Name	First Name	Black Males	Black Females
Brown	Daniel	1	1
Dering	Thomas	4	1
Havens	Nichol	8	6
Havens	Obadiah[10]	1	1
Nicoll	William	7	3
Totals =		21	12	**33**

American Revolution Era

Shelter Island had a population of 171, of which 33 were "negroes," 19%.[11]

Joseph Conkling owned land both on Shelter Island and on Hogs Neck. His 1780 will states "I leave to my negro wench [Marria] her time" and "I also give to Merria her daughter Cloe during her life." In other words, he freed Marria and gave her her own daughter as a slave.

February 22, 1788, the NYS legislature passed an act for manumitting of slaves.

1789

Joshua Clark on Shelter Island freed Lymas.[12]

In 1789 Joshua Clark on Shelter Island freed **Lymas**. In Southold in 1791 Barnabas Terrel stated that executors were "not to sell [**Cain**] without his consent." John Gardiner in Southold in 1795 freed "**Cuff.**" He required that all other slaves over age 30 were to be freed. Younger ones were to be freed at age 30. Joseph Booth decreed that his "**negress Doll**" was to be maintained for the rest of her natural life and that "**Ruben**" was to be freed. Thomas Dering of Shelter Island, upon his death,

[10] Could be "Oby Ward" in the 1820 US Census of Shelter Island, NY.
[11] Shillingburg, Patricia & Edward, *The Disposition of Slaves on the East end of Long Island from 1680 to 1796*, 2003.
[12] Shillingburg, Patricia & Edward, *The Disposition of Slaves on the East end of Long Island from 1680 to 1796*, 2003.

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freed **Matilda**. A year later Phineas Fanning of Southold freed "**Cornus.**"[13]

1790 – U. S. Census Federal Census (1st)

SHELTER ISLAND (1790) – Fee People of Color
p. 165 # of family members

Cook Moore 9
Crank 5

1795

October 1, 1795, Sylvester Dering, Henry Dering and Nathaniel Gardiner applied for the privilege and it was granted of manumitting a Negro woman slave called "Matilda." The men were sons and/or son-laws of Thomas Dering, deceased.[14]

In 1799, Rensselaer Havens manumitted his slave "Dick," and Samuel B. Nicoll released three of a slave family: **Cade, Elizabeth** and **Armenie.**[15]

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[13] The Disposition of Slaves on the East End of Long Island from 1680 to 1796 by Patricia and Edward Shillingburg, 2003
[14] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, p. 76.
[15] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, p. 76.

1800 – U. S. Census Federal Census (2nd)

1800 US Census - Living independent[16]

		Free Colored
	Crank	4
	Melinda[17]	5
Helms	Pompey	4
More	Cade	8
Nichol	Cade	3

1800 US Census - Free Blacks / Slaves living in white Households[18]

		Free Colored	Slaves
Bowditch	William	2	
Congdon	Joseph	1	3
Deering	Silvester	1	5
Haines	Henry	1	
Havens	Jediah		2
Havens	Desire		2
Horton	Jasiah	1	3
Nichol	Samuel B		4

In 1801, Desire Havens manumitted a Negro woman called "**Fide.**"[19]

In 1806, Sylvester Dering manumitted a Negro woman called "**Violet.**"[20]

1810 – U. S. Census Federal Census (3rd)

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[16] 1800 US Census, Shelter Island, Suffolk Co., NY, Series M32, 27, Page 105

[17] *In 1765,* Thomas Dering took up residence at his family estate on Shelter Island. He made an inventory of his property which included six slaves: including Cato, London, Comus, Matilda, Judith, and a male child named London; Shillingburg, Patricia & Edward, *The Disposition of Slaves on the East end of Long Island from 1680 to 1796,* 2003.

[18] 1800 US Census, shelter Island, Suffolk Co., NY, Series M32, Roll 27, Page 104-105.

[19] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, p. 76.

[20] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, p. 76.

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In 1821, the widow of Sylvester Dering manumitted a slave called "**London**."[21]

June 1, 1804, Sylvester Dering made an affidavit to the birth of "**Achilles**," a male Negro child born of a slave. Achilles was born February 10, 1804.[22]

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[21] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, p. 76.
[22] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, p. 76.

1820 – U. S. Census Federal Census

1820 US Census - Living independent[23]

		Free Colored
Bird	John	3
Booth	Tascas	1
Ceaser	Paul	6
Ceaser	Mike	3
Ceaser	Stephen	4
Cuffe	Oby[24]	8
Elsworth	Arthur	8
Hamon	Ben	1
Hannible	Hannah	1
Havens	Violet[25]	2
Nicoll	Elizabeth	2
Rose	Bill	8
Rose	Jason	1
Ward	Jack	4
Ward	London[26]	5

1830 – U. S. Census Federal Census

1840 – U. S. Census Federal Census

1850 – U. S. Census Federal Census

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[23] 1820 US Census, Shelter Island, Suffolk Co., NY, Series M33, Roll 74, Page 341-343.

[24]

[25] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, p. 76; *1806, Sylvester Dering manumitted a Negro woman called "Violet.*

[26] Mallmann, Rev. Jacob E., *Historical Papers of Shelter Island and Its Presbyterian Church*, Printed by the Author, New York, 1899, p. 76; *In 1821, the widow of Sylvester Dering manumitted a slave called "London." In 1765,* Thomas Dering took up residence at his family estate on Shelter Island. He made an inventory of his property which included six slaves: including Cato, London, Comus, Matilda, Judith, and a male child named London; Shillingburg, Patricia & Edward, *The Disposition of Slaves on the East end of Long Island from 1680 to 1796,* 2003.

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1860 – U. S. Census Federal Census

1860 US Census - Shelter Island, Suffolk County, NY[27]

			Age	Birth Date	Sex	Race	Occupation
1245/1332	Hempstead	James[28]	52	1808	m	B	Farm laborer
		Rachael	46	1814	f	B	
		Madison	24	1836	m	B	Mariner
		Henry	22	1838	m	B	Farm laborer
		Mary	19	1841	f	B	
		William	18	1842	m	B	Oyster
1192/1278	Ward	William	52	1808	m	B	Farm laborer
1193/1279	Nichols	Jason	55	1805	m	B	Farm laborer
	Nichols	Dorcas	55	1805	f	B	
	Case	Jason[29]	102	1758	m	B	Farm laborer
	Case	Regge	97	1763	f	B	
1230/1317	Hempstead	Mary E	20	1840	f	B	Servant

Black Sailors in Union Navy during the Civil War from Suffolk County, N. Y.[30]

Hempstead, William 22 (1841) Mulatto Shelter Island 10/23/1863 NY

29th US Colored Troop Regiment

James M. Hempstead died in service[31]

1870 – U. S. Census Federal Census

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[27] 1860 US Census, Shelter Island, Suffolk County, New York, M653, Roll 864, Page 158-159
[28] 29th US Colored Reg., - died in service; Residence in 1865 – Shelter Island, NY.
[29] 1830 US Census – Shelter Island – listed as colored.
[30] Brewster-walker, Sandi, *LI Native & Black History UPDATE*, January 2007, Vol. 1, p. 7.
[31] 29th US Colored Reg., - died in service; Residence in 1865 – Shelter Island, NY.

1880 – U. S. Census Federal Census

1880 US Census - Shelter Island, Suffolk County, NY

			Age	Birth Date	Sex	Race	Occupation	Birthplace
88/100	Hempstead	Henry[32]	40	1840	m	B	Cook	NY
		Mathias	15	1865	m	B	Tinkerman	NY
9/12	Greene	Mary[33]	19	1861	f	B	Servant	NY
108/123	Perry	Albert[34]	34	1846	m	B		MA

1890 – U. S. Census Federal Census

Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle
1894 Sept 23 (p. 10) Will & two Col'd servants –Shelter Island[35]

1900 – U. S. Census Federal Census

Publication: Brooklyn Eagle; **Date**: Jun 3, 1901; **Section:** None; **Page Number**: 11

Sag Harbor, L. I., June 3 - The funeral of AARON H. CUFFEE was held in the Baptist Church yesterday afternoon, the Rev. C. E. Furman officiating, and his remains were deposited in the cemetery at Eastville. MR. CUFFEE was highly respected in this place and at Shelter Island Heights, where he died in the 67th year of his age. He was of Indian blood, a descendant of the Montauks, and was one of the principals in the ligation between the Indians and the Long Island Railroad for possession of their Montauk lands. In early life he made several whaling voyages and has followed the water much of the time since, being pilot and mate of the steamer Long Island for several seasons.[36]

Publication: Brooklyn Eagle; **Date:** Dec 23, 1901; **Section:** None; **Page Number**: 9

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[32] 1880 US Census – Shelter Island, T9, Roll 935, Page 406
[33] 1880 US Census – Shelter Island, T9, Roll 935, Page 399
[34] 1880 US Census – Shelter Island, T9, Roll 935, Page 407
[35] Brewster-walker, Sandi, *LI Native & Black History UPDATE*, January 2007, Vol. 1, p. 52.
[36] Brewster-walker, Sandi, *LI Native & Black History UPDATE*, January 2007, Vol. 2, page 4.

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CUFFEE NOT HOODOOED AND HIS WILL PROVEN

Though a believer in the Strange Cult the Old Indian Knew What He Was Doing.

HE LEFT ONLY A SMALL ESTATE

Surrogate Petty Compares the Hoodooism of the Indians to Christian Science and Witchcraft

Riverhead, L. I., December 23 - In the contested will proceeding of AARON H. CUFFEE of shelter Island, in which the contestants alleged that the old Indian had been hoodooed, Surrogate Petty this morning entered a decision admitting the will to probate. The estate is small. In his decision Judge Petty says: "Although testator shortly before his death was a believer in hoodooism, whatever the same may be, and believer that there were people capable of practicing this art and selected testators as their patient, it is not shown, however, that testator's belief went so far as to prevent his acts from being free and unconstrained. It is clear that, regardless of this superstition or his peculiar beliefs, at the time of the execution of the paper propounded as his will he knew what he did and did what he wished. "It would be comparatively easy to successfully oppose the probate of a will on the ground of hoodooism if it could be shown that the testator at the time of execution was so affected thereby as to be either not in his right mind or so controlled as to dispose of his property as directed by such influence. This is not shown and I am unable to find that his peculiar and, to most minds, foolish beliefs in hoodooism rendered him of unsound mind or affected his testamentary capacity.[37]

1910 – U. S. Census Federal Census

World War I Draft Registrations

1920 – U. S. Census Federal Census

1930 – U. S. Census Federal Census

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[37] Brewster-walker, Sandi, *LI Native & Black History UPDATE*, January 2007, Vol. 2

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